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—AP WIREPHOTO.
DAVID HILLIARD
Death statement was rhetoric.

PANTHER QUOTE IS NOT LITERAL

‘Kill Nixon’ Line Is Said
Meant Figuratively

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Black Panther leader charged with advocating the assassination of President Nixon said Sunday his statement “We should kill President Nixon” was meant rhetorically, not literally.

“It was political rhetoric,” David Hilliard, Black Panther chief of staff, said of the statement at a Nov. 15 peace rally in San Francisco. “We can call it a metaphor. It is the language of the ghetto. This is the way we relate.”

Hilliard gave his explanation on the CBS television-radio program “Face the Nation.”

OUT OF CONTEXT

Hilliard, free on bond after his indictment by a federal grand jury said the statement was taken out of the context of his speech and added:

“I did not threaten the life of

the President. In the context of a speech that I made, I stated very emphatically that we would kill anyone that stands in the way of our freedom and, of course, the newsmen and the news media is another instrument by which the government dupes and hypnotizes the people.”

An interviewer asked Hilliard: “Do you feel that Richard Nixon is standing in the way of your freedom?”

“I think that anybody that picks up guns against the oppressed people or anybody that endorses programs that maintain the oppressive structure as it is, is in the way of our freedom,” Hilliard replied.

“Is that Richard Nixon?” the

NIXON IS CHIEF

“Richard Nixon is the chief spokesman of the American people and, if the man is not responsible for the people in government, like the FBI agencies or the local police, then he should stand up and let the American people know that he does not endorse the kind of campaigns that have been waged against the Black Panther party,” Hilliard said.

The Panther leader said his organization does not advocate violence: “Our slogan is that we want an abolition to war, but we do understand that in order to get rid of the gun it will be necessary to take up the gun.

“We make a distinction between the reactionary violence manifested in this system, the main oppressor of all men, and in violence used in behalf of the oppressed people to throw off the shackles of colonialism and oppression. So that violence on our part would be justified.”